

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02056 241141Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 L-02 /052 W

----- 071994

P R 240949Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3033

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2056

DEPT FOR S/NM

BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE AND MR. CHAPMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS -- REQUEST FOR S/NM MEMORANDUM ON LEGAL
ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE LAO GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

1. WE HAVE HAD NUMEROUS INDICATIONS IN RECENT DAYS THAT
OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES OF LAO COALITION (PGNU) ARE CONSIDERING
IDEA OF ABROGATING 1971 LAO ANTI-NARCOTICS LEGISLATION AND
POSSIBLY ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT ENTITY WHICH WOULD ATTEMPT
TO SELL OPIUM LEGALLY IN THE WORLD MARKET. SUBJECT MAY COME
UP AT PGNU CABINET MEETING MARCH 26.

2. DCM DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH PGNU MINISTER OF JUSTICE
KHAMKING SOUVANLASY (VIENTIANE SIDE) MARCH 23. IT WAS CLEAR
THAT KHAMKING DID NOT REALIZE THE VERY EXTENSIVE LEGAL
COMPLEXITIES OR POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS OF SUCH ACTION FOR
PGNU BOTH AS SIGNATORY TO SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC
DRUGS AND AS RECIPIENT OF U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND
UNFDAC SUPPORT. (WE DOUBT THAT HE OR ANYONE ELSE IN LAOS
UNDERSTANDS EITHER THE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH PROSPECTIVE
LEGAL BUYERS MUST OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM INTERNATIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 02056 241141Z

NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD AND DIFFICULTY LAOS WOULD BE LIKELY

TO ENCOUNTER IN OBTAINING A QUOTA FROM THE INCB.)
CONVERSATION ENDED WITH KHAMKING'S ASKING DCM FOR A
MEMORANDUM ON LEGAL ASPECTS OF CONTEMPLATED PGNU ACTIONS.

3. DCM DISCUSSED FOREGOING WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE (S/NM) IN
BANGKOK, WHERE BOTH ARE ATTENDING EA REGIONAL NARCOTICS
CONFERENCE. AMBASSADOR VANCE KINDLY OFFERED SERVICES OF
S/NM IN PREPARING AND CABLING TO VIENTIANE A BRIEF SUMMARY
OF LEGAL ASPECTS.

4. IN LIGHT OF AMBASSADOR VANCE'S OFFER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING FROM S/NM ON PRIORITY BASIS AN OUTLINE OF LEGAL
CONSIDERATIONS INHERENT IN CONTEMPLATED PGNU ACTIONS. SUCH
INFORMATION IF RECEIVED QUICKLY COULD BE USED TO
ADVANTAGE.

5. WE HOPE MEANWHILE THAT OUR ALERTING SENIOR OFFICIALS
TO FACT THAT SERIOUS LEGAL COMPLICATIONS WOULD ARISE
(AMBASSADOR MADE SAME POINT TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR PHENG
PHONGSAVAN MARCH 24) WILL FORESTALL HASTY AND ILL-ADVISED
DECISIONS AT MARCH 26 CABINET MEETING.

WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, SALES, LAW, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI02056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750102-0095
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750320/aaaaaryf.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS -- REQUEST FOR S/NM MEMORANDUM ON LEGAL ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE LAO GOVERNMENT ACTIONS
TAGS: SNAR, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006